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DEPARTMENT OF STATE A/CDC/MR	
REVIEWED BY <u>Joan Igenberg</u>	DATE <u>10/5/81</u>
RDS ☐ or XDS ☐ EXT. DATE	
TS AUTH.	REASON(S)
ENDORSE EXISTING MARKINGS ☐	
DECLASSIFIED ☒ RELEASE ☒	
RELEASE DENIED ☐	
PA or FOI EXEMPTIONS	

SUBJ: NATIONAL ASSEMBLY: JUNE 20 AFTERNOON SESSION

REF: SAIGON 28416

1. AT JUNE 20 AFTERNOON SESSION NA DECIDED TO DRAFT RESOLUTION CALLING ON DIRECTORATE TO IMPLEMENT ARTICLES 7 (INDIVIDUAL SECURITY) AND 12 (FREEDOM OF EXPRESSION) OF CONSTITUTION AND TO MAKE POPULATION AWARE OF PROVISIONS OF CONSTITUTION. ALSO DURING SESSION, TWO MOTIONS EACH SIGNED BY MORE THAN 12 DEPUTIES WERE READ BY SEC GEN NGO THANH TUNG, ONE REQUESTING THAT THE

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ELECTION LAW DRAFTING COMMITTEE EXPLAIN THE "CLERICAL ERROR" WHICH RESULTED IN OMISSION OF ARTICLE 14(10) FROM FINAL VERSION OF UPPER HOUSE LAW (SEE REFTEL), THE OTHER PROTESTING FACT THAT COLONEL DAM VAN QUY STRUCK DEPUTY HUYNH THANH IN MELEE AT END OF JUNE 19 MORNING SESSION. (IN DEBATE ON DIRECTORATE'S DECISION TO REVISE UPPER HOUSE LAW, DUC IMPLIED THAT DEMOCRATIC-ALLIANCE BLOC HAD BEEN BOUGHT BY PM KY. PROVOKED BY DUC'S REMARKS, DEPUTY DAM VAN QUY PUNCHED HIM IN THE JAW AFTER SESSION HAD ADJOURNED. DUC WAS, HOWEVER, NOT SUFFICIENTLY HURT TO PREVENT HIM FROM ATTENDING SUBSEQUENT SESSIONS.) FINALLY, SEC GEN READ A LETTER FROM DEMOCRATIC-ALLIANCE BLOC LEADER REQUESTING THAT MEMBERSHIP OF NA SPECIAL COMMITTEE CHARGED WITH EXAMINING CREDENTIALS OF PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATES BE REVISED TO REFLECT RELATIVE STRENGTH OF NA BLOCs. (AT JUNE 19 SESSION DEPUTIES DECIDED THAT MEMBERSHIP WOULD BE APPORTIONED EQUALLY TO THREE BLOCs AND INDEPENDENTS.)

2. DEBATE ON APPLICATION OF CONSTITUTION FOCUSED ON FREEDOM OF THE PRESS DURING FORTHCOMING ELECTION PERIOD ALTHOUGH

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DISCUSSION ALSO TOUCHED ON OTHER SUBJECTS.

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3. SOUTHERN RENAISSANCE DEPUTY LY THANH LE INITIATED DEBATE BY REMARKING THAT "NOTHING HAD CHANGED" SINCE PROMULGATION OF CONSTITUTION. HE SUGGESTED THAT THERE BE FREEDOM OF THE PRESS BETWEEN NOW AND THE ELECTIONS IN ORDER TO "ASSURE REALIZATION OF DEMOCRACY."

4. LE WAS SECONDED BY NGUYEN HUU CHUNG WHO ADDED THAT FULL, UNCENSORED ACCOUNTS OF NA DEBATES SHOULD BE ALLOWED TO APPEAR IN PRESS.

5. SOUTHERN RENAISSANCE FLOOR LEADER LY QUI CHUNG ARGUED THAT CENSORSHIP UNNECESSARY. IF NEWSPAPER ARTICLES ARE IN VIOLATION OF THE LAW, THEN THEY SHOULD BE PENALIZED ACCORDING TO LAW. IF THERE MUST BE CENSORSHIP, CHUNG MAINTAINED, GVN SHOULD MAKE ABSOLUTE GROUND RULES GOVERNING WHAT CAN AND CANNOT BE PUBLISHED BY PRESS.

6. BUI VAN KIEU INTERJECTED VIEW THAT SINCE PROMULGATION OF CONSTITUTION GVN HAS DONE LITTLE TO MAKE CITIZENS IN THE COUNTRYSIDE AWARE OF THEIR RIGHTS AND DUTIES. THERE ARE

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MANY PEOPLE IN DETENTION CENTER, SAID KIEU, WHO DO NOT KNOW WHAT CRIMES THEY HAVE BEEN ACCUSED OF, NOR DO THEY HAVE ANY HOPE OF AN EARLY TRIAL. KIEU ASKED THAT DIRECTORATE BE ASKED TO "IMPLEMENT IMMEDIATELY THOSE PROVISIONS OF CONSTITUTION WHICH CAN BE IMPLEMENTED IMMEDIATELY."

7. DR. PHAN QUAN DAN MAINTAINED THAT LOCAL PRESS FREER TODAY THAN IT WAS DURING DIEM ERA. NONETHELESS, HE ADDED, CONTROLS ON PRESS SHOULD BE FURTHER RELAXED TO ASSURE THAT THERE IS NO FRAUD IN FORTHCOMING ELECTIONS. ON QUESTION OF INDIVIDUAL LIBERTIES, DAN SAID THAT CANDIDATES MUST BE ALLOWED TO CAMPAIGN WITHOUT FEAR OF THREATS OR REPRISALS. "IF", DAN CONCLUDED, "THERE IS ELECTION FRAUD AS THERE HAS JUST BEEN IN KOREA, THEN IT WILL BE A GREAT TRAGEDY FOR OUR COUNTRY."

8. GREATER PEOPLES BLOC LEADER NGUYEN VAN NGAI PROPOSED THAT NA DEMONSTRATE ITS "CONSTRUCTIVE SPIRIT" BY RECOMMENDING THAT GVN PROPERLY IMPLEMENT

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CONSTITUTION. NGAI DEPLORED FACT THAT SOME RECENT
STATEMENTS BY CHIEF OF STATE GENERAL THIEU HAD BEEN
CENSORED, "SOMETHING WHICH COULD NOT HAPPEN IN ANY
OTHER COUNTRY."

9. CONSENSUS EMERGED THAT NA SHOULD ISSUE RE-
SOLUTION CALLING ON GVN TO IMPLEMENT ARTICLES 7 AND 12 OF CON-
STITUTION. DEPUTIES SETTLED ON WORD "RESOLUTION" RATHER THAN "RE-
COMMENDATION" WITH VIEW TO MAKING ITS MESSAGE MOA BINDING ON GVN.
IT WAS ALSO DECIDED THAT PROPOSE GREATER EFFORT BY GVN
TO MAKE CITIZENRY AWARE OF IMPORTANT PROVISIONS OF CON-
STITUTION.

10. NA WILL DEBATE MOTIONS REFERRED TO PARA 1 AT JUNE 21
SESSION.

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